

CONGRATULATING THE Y.O. RANCH ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, people leave footprints on the land, but as most private property owners in Texas know, land leaves bigger footprints on people. The brave families that ventured to Texas when Texas was just bare land left an imprint on the land and in the souls of all who live in or around the legacies they leave behind. This is perfectly embodied in the Historic Y.O. Ranch in the heart of the Texas Hill Country. Five generations of the Schreiner family folks have left their indelible prints on the Y.O.

I want to congratulate the Hill Country for taking care of this legend and the Schreiner family for continuing the legacy of the Y.O. Ranch as they join together in their 125th Anniversary Celebration on December 31, 2005.

This legendary ranch sprang from a young man's dream and his family's determination to keep the dream alive. In 1852, 14-year-old Charles A. Schreiner arrived in Texas with his family—18 days later his father died and for the next 2 years Charles helped his family get by. When he turned 16, he enlisted in the Texas Rangers. When he "retired" from the Rangers 2½ years later, Charles took up ranching.

Charles, who was known as Captain Schreiner, began buying up Hill Country property and cattle. During this period, more than 300,000 head of Texas Longhorns bearing his brand trailed up to Dodge City laying the foundation of the Captain's empire. Part of this empire included the present day Y.O. Ranch, which the Captain purchased in 1880.

During his life, the Captain continued to gather land, launch successful enterprises and contribute to his community. In 1917, when he was 79 years old, the Captain divided his holdings, which included 566,000 acres of land, equally among his eight children. Walter R. Schreiner, the Captain's youngest son, was the owner of 69,000 acres located about 40 miles northwest of Kerrville now called the Y.O. Ranch. In 1922, Walter married Myrtle Barton a decision that not only gave the Y.O. a woman's touch, but another leader.

In 1933, Walter died, leaving the Y.O. to his wife, Myrtle and his young son, Charlie III. When Walter died at the height of the Great Depression, Myrtle knew nothing about running the ranch, but circumstances forced her to learn quickly and to learn well. She stepped up to the vast challenge of keeping the legacy alive.

Myrtle relied on her brother-in-laws, Gus and Louie Schreiner. By sticking to cattle, sheep and goats, Myrtle kept the ranch afloat and then some. Not bound by convention, in 1943, Myrtle leased the ranch to Petty Geophysical Engineering, not for oil and gas exploration, but for hunting. She pioneered a practice that has been adopted as an income generator on almost every ranch in Texas and has been a vital part of the Y.O.'s economic picture ever since.

Charlie III grew up on the ranch and learned ranching from the ground up, preparing to take on his share of the responsibility. In the after-

math of the drought of the 50s, Charlie III began his relentless pursuit of Longhorns. He had strong feelings for the animals and the role they'd played in developing the West and the Y.O. but the drought drove home the importance of having a hardy, resilient breed of cattle for tough times in tough country. Charlie III not only built the largest quality Longhorn herd in the world, but recruited other cattlemen to the cause and eventually helped found the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association and is widely credited with single handedly saving the longhorn breed from extinction.

Charlie III also undertook another notable conservation project providing a home to exotic wildlife a business that other ranchers later entered. The first animals released were blackbuck antelope and Aoudad sheep, which proved that higher fences were necessary. Today, the Y.O. is home to more than 60 exotic species, many of which are available for hunting.

Charlie III didn't introduce exotics with the intention of establishing a hunting program, but as the animals thrived and reproduced the numbers had to be managed. Plus, hunting is another source of revenue and is a vital part of the ranch's newest undertaking the people business. Other wildlife includes white-tailed deer, wild hogs, wild turkey, axis deer, eland antelope, sika deer and fallow deer.

Charlie III and his sons, Charlie IV, Walter, Gus and Louis, over the years, diversified into photography safaris, Y.O. Adventure Camp for children, corporate retreats and the Y.O. Ranch Steakhouse in Dallas's West End. But perhaps the biggest foray into this area came in 1986, when the Schreiner family set aside 11,000 acres to be sold as home sites for people who weren't born on the Y.O., but wanted to get to the Hill Country as soon as possible. The Schreiner family has worked hard to make it easy to for people to call the ranch home. Inside the high fence that surrounds Y.O. Ranchlands, buyers can choose from tracts ranging from 50 acres to 125 acres, all of which showcase the Hill Country's rugged beauty.

The ranch, then and now, survived strictly on the skills, creativity and determination of the owners. Fighting off Indians, outlaws, Wars, The Depression, Droughts, Estate Taxes, Divorces and Mother Nature, generations of Schreiners—and now landowners who've "joined the family"—continue to care for the beautiful Hill Country of Texas and preserve Texas's proud ranching heritage.

I wish Charlie IV and the rest of the Y.O. Schreiner family (all 17 of them) the best of luck in the future and am proud to congratulate the Y.O. Ranch on its 125th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on December 13, 2005, I was absent for several votes for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted: vote No. 623, Korean American Day, "yes"; vote No. 624, Presidential \$1 Coin Act, "no"; vote No. 625, Small Public Housing Authority Act, "yes."

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN D. DINGELL'S SERVICE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the service of a fellow Michigan congressman: the Honorable JOHN DINGELL, who marks today his fiftieth year as a member of this distinguished House of Representatives. The length of his labors is astounding; his constant concern for his constituents is exemplary; and his integrity is simply beyond reproach.

Having been elected to fill the seat and the shoes of his father (who passed away while still in office), Mr. DINGELL has blazed his own path over the past five decades. Impacting virtually every major piece of legislation to be signed into law during the last half century, Mr. DINGELL is one of a handful of lawmakers whose effectiveness does not rely solely on his party being in the majority.

Impressive in both stature and the tenacity with which he pursues his positions, Mr. DINGELL has lent his life to public service. The good citizens of his district and his colleagues here on the Hill are all the better for his tenure; may it long continue.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD A. "ED" PENICHE

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Edward A. "Ed" Peniche, of Houston, Texas. He has made an immeasurable contribution to America through two outstanding careers—first with the U.S. Army as an airborne soldier, and following his military retirement—achieving advanced degrees that enabled him to embark on a second career as a college professor. This career has been the fulfillment of Ed's childhood dreams for a better life.

Ed was born on June 25, 1925 in Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico. He was the oldest of eight children. His parents were not highly educated, but they instilled in their son the value of an education. To that end, he immigrated to the United States on December 7, 1942 on a student visa to pursue education that was what was not available to him in Mexico.

Ed arrived in Paducah, Kentucky with four dollars in his pocket and stayed with an aunt and uncle while attending high school. During this time, World War II was being fought, and on September 27, 1943, Ed entered active duty with the U.S. Army. He was trained as an airborne infantryman, and served with valor in combat from shortly after D-Day to VE-Day (Victory in Europe.)

Ed is very proud of his airborne training, which instilled in him a "can do" attitude despite all adversities. He served proudly and heroically with the 101st Airborne Division during the Battle of the Bulge, which started on